
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA



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**Honda, South Bay Delegation Secure Needed Federal Transit Funding
For Silicon Valley Transportation Projects**

Washington, DC—This morning, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) announced the House of Representatives passed the final version of the federal transportation funding bill for the next fiscal year. The bill contains funds for several important projects designed to help alleviate traffic congestion and improve transportation services in Silicon Valley and Santa Clara County. As a Member of the House Transportation Committee, Rep. Honda worked with South Bay Reps. Anna Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) and Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) Pete Stark (D-Fremont) and California Senators Feinstein and Boxer to secure this important funding.

“Santa Clara County residents currently spend a cumulative total of 34,000 hours stuck in traffic each day— it is essential that we continue to work together to improve our transportation system so that our fast-growing region will continue to prosper,” said Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose). **“I am pleased that our South Bay delegation was able to work together to help produce a transportation spending bill that provides funding to enhance the mobility of our workforce and improve the quality of life of Santa Clara County residents.”**

Funded Transportation Projects for Fiscal Year 2002:

1. **Silicon Transportation Management Center Facility (\$700,000)** – This funding will help the County and City governments, the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, VTA, and other local jurisdictions create a joint operations center where they would work together to create a comprehensive system to address traffic congestion by using state-of-the-art technology like real-time travel information, Global Positioning Systems, and traffic signal synchronization.
2. **Tasman West Light Rail Project (\$113,336)** – Funds will go to pay for the final stages of the 7.6-mile extension of Valley Transportation Authority’s (VTA) light rail system into the heart of Silicon Valley. Ridership for this new extension is well ahead of projections.
3. **Access to Jobs/Reverse Commute Program (\$500,000)**- The program supports the welfare-to-work initiative by providing affordable transportation services to help welfare recipients transition to the workforce. By providing transportation services to childcare, medical assistance, job interviews and the workplace, Santa Clara County has made it easier for over 1,200 former welfare recipients to reenter the workforce since November 1999.
4. **Line 22 Bus Procurement (\$600,000)**: This funding will assist VTA in purchasing new 60-foot buses to replace the standard 40-foot buses on Line 22— the backbone of Santa Clara

County's bus network that traverses 27 miles from East San Jose to Palo Alto, with 115 bus stops along major streets. The line carries more than 28,000 passengers each weekday and is currently operating at full capacity, often times with standing room only during peak hours. More than 55 of VTA's other bus routes connect with Line 22, along with a host of other services including Greyhound, AMTRAK, and light and commuter rail service.

“Our region is a vital economic engine for the rest of the nation,” continued Honda. “I am pleased that we were able to convince our colleagues in both Houses of Congress that making a commitment to building a 21st century transportation system for San Jose and Silicon Valley is an essential part of our national economic recovery.”